

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 3, 2002 (Paper No. 8). Claims 1 to 19 are currently in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0015167 (Watanabe). Applicant has considered the Examiner's comments together with the applied reference and respectfully submits that the claims herein are patentably distinguishable over the applied reference for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claims 1 and 7 concern character processing where information relating to an area for displaying character data is stored in first storage means and character data in association with the area for displaying character data is stored in second storage means. The character data stored in the second storage means is arranged in a display area created in accordance with the information stored in the first storage means. Character data which can be arranged in the display area is displayed and it is judged whether a predetermined designation to the display area is selected by a user. When it is judged that the predetermined designation is selected, character data which cannot be displayed in the display area is moved to third storage means from the second storage means.

Independent Claims 13 and 14 concern character processing in which character data, which is stored in storage means in association with an area in which the character data is to be displayed, is arranged in the area and the character data which can be

arranged in the area is displayed. It is judged whether a predetermined designation to the area is selected by a user, and if the predetermined designation is selected, character data which cannot be displayed in the area is moved to another storage means from the storage means.

The applied reference is not understood to disclose the foregoing features of the present invention. In particular, the applied reference is not understood to disclose at least the feature of moving character data that cannot be displayed in a display area from one storage means to another storage means when a predetermined designation is selected.

Watanabe concerns a system for inputting a character string and producing a seal using the input character string. As discussed in paragraph 161 of Watanabe, the system recognizes when the number of characters in an input character string exceed or overflow an allowable number of characters for a particular line. Any overflow characters are then displayed with plex when the input character string from a display buffer is displayed in order to urge a user to instruct a slewing action. The Office Action has contended that the display buffer corresponds with the storage means to which the present invention moves character data that cannot be displayed in a display area. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of Watanabe.

The display buffer in Watanabe is understood to contain an input character string and not just overflow characters. While lines 14 to 19 of paragraph 161 in Watanabe describe displaying overflow characters with plex when the display is changed to a character input screen by operating the display buffer, this is not understood to indicate that the overflow characters are moved to the display buffer for display. Rather, this portion of Watanabe is understood simply to describe displaying an input character string stored in

the display buffer with the overflow characters within the displayed input character string being displayed with plex, as shown in Figure 17(b). Furthermore, Watanabe is not understood to disclose storing overflow characters separate from the input character string. Therefore, Watanabe is not understood to disclose at least the feature of moving character data that cannot be displayed in a display area from one storage means to another storage means when a predetermined designation is selected.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 are believed to be allowable over the applied reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of Claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 are respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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